GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4081
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012
AIR POLLUTION
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the concentration of fine particulate matter in the air is higher than the international standards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the measures taken to reduce such concentration?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a)&(b). The revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were notified by the Government in November, 2009 for twelve pollutants including PM2.5 (particulate matter having size less than 2.5 micron) with 24 hours average norm of 60 microgramme/m3 and annual average norm of 40. A few countries in the world have set ambient norms for PM2.5. It ranges between 25 to 120 microgramme/m3 for 24 hours average and 8 to 50 microgramme/m3 for annual average. There is no universal international standard for PM2.5.

Ambient air quality is monitored by concerned State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees, NEERI and Central Pollution Control Board across the country. Levels of PM2.5 in ambient air, a newly added pollutant in NAAQS, is monitored in a few cities including Delhi. The annual average concentration of PM2.5 in Delhi has been observed to be between 61 and 89 microgramme/m3 during last three years against the norm of 40 microgramme/m3.

The various measures taken to reduce levels of PM2.5, inter alia, include prescribing more stringent source specific emission standards, strict compliance of source specific emission standards, implementation of Bharat Stage III/IV emission norms for vehicles, supply of appropriate fuel for vehicles as per Auto Fuel Policy, use of gaseous fuel for public transport, etc.